



Circuit Ministry 2.0

Imagining Wisconsin Circuit Ministry Anew

A New Day for Circuit Ministry

Beginning in 2014 the focus of Circuit Ministry will be on the implementation of the conference vision: *Imagining Wisconsin Anew.*

Is the upgrade to Circuit Ministry 2.0 a re-launch or an adjustment?

This is a re-launch of circuit ministry, but your experience of change with this upgrade will depend on which version of Circuit Ministry you are currently using, the way your circuit is currently functioning.

Circuits will be worked with individually rather than engaged in a one-size-fits-all approach to training.

Open Introductory Training Events 2014 scheduled in every region are offered to provide transparency regarding change in Circuit Ministry, and to establish a common language for our training.

Are Circuits Ministry Producing Units or Administrative Structures?

Circuits with established mission, programs that currently work, are encouraged to continue.

The role of the appointed Clergy Circuit Leader will not include proxy District Superintendent functions.

The Clergy Circuit Leader will facilitate a Clergy Circuit Team to focus on ministry, doing ministry better, and doing ministry better together.

The Laity Circuit Leader will lead a Laity Circuit Team, and facilitate collaboration with the Clergy Circuit Team. The Clergy Circuit Team will not direct or lead the Laity Circuit Team.



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Is the function of the Clergy Circuit Team and the Laity Circuit Team the same?

No. They are complimentary, intended for partnership and collaboration, but they are not the same. They have differentiated functions.

A Clergy Circuit Team will meet regularly and separately for distinct clergy leadership development and training, peer support and accountability. This is a closed professional mutual support group for clergy.

A Laity Circuit Team will meet regularly and separately for distinct laity leadership development and training, and to imagine collaborative strategies for new externally focused ministries in their region.

Laity Circuit Teams and Clergy Circuit Teams will collaborate to design and implement new ministry strategies proposed by the Laity Circuit Team.

Are Circuits New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Circuit Wide Programs and Events?

The function of the Laity Circuit Team is to study the region, and imagine new ways to reach new people based on the demographic reality, changes in the population, and the limitations and strengths of the existing ministries of congregations. As a Think Tank they generate new ideas, or create possibilities.

The Laity Circuit Team explores design and implementation options of their new idea with the Clergy Circuit Team for the purpose of embedding new ministry ideas in local congregations or strategic collaborations. New ministries will be connected to existing congregations when the willingness and capacity is developed. Congregations eventually accept the ministry idea, plan and implement, while the Laity Circuit Team moves on to new ideas.

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Circuits as Learning Academies

“New ministries with new people” remains the intended outcome of Circuit Ministry 2.0. What is new is focused guidance for Circuits provided by the conference vision document *Imagining Wisconsin Anew*.

Circuits will look for ways to help local congregations “Engage Our Multicultural Communities.”

Circuits will look for opportunities to “Plant New Ministries” (*new faith communities*)

Circuits will support the “Launch of Turnaround Movement with Vital Congregations.”

Circuits will “Imagine Mercy and Justice Ministries in Both Rural and Urban Communities.”

Circuits will look for ways to “Create Soul Food in Wisconsin.”

Training for Circuit Ministry 2.0

Circuit 2.0 training will be organized through the Coordinator of Circuit Ministries using resources of the Discipleship Leadership Council and the Ministry and Outreach Staff.

Training will be provided locally, and tailored to the current state of development in each circuit. *Realignment questions will be resolved on a case by case prior to training.*

The training focus for Clergy Circuit Team:

- a. Congregation as Discipleship System
- b. Community Research – practical use of Demographic and Ethnographic Methods
- c. Off-Stage Leadership – a guided Support and Accountability Process
- d. Practicing the Clergy Covenant – general support and accountability, team building

The training focus for Laity Circuit Teams will be:

- a. Congregation as Discipleship System
- b. Community Engagement
- c. How to locally and collaboratively implement *Imagining Wisconsin Anew*
- d. Developing cooperative and collaborative ministry (models and methods)
- e. How to identify new mission and ministry possibilities
- f. How to coordinate with District Strategy Teams for new faith community starts

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Circuits will receive consultation and training based on a priority ranking:

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| Tier One: | Circuits that already involve laity and are functioning – assist in adaptation |
| Tier Two: | Circuits in key population and areas where District Strategy Teams see new starts |
| Tier Three: | Circuits demonstrating readiness by local initiative (the Laity Circuit Team is established) |
| Tier Four: | Circuits demonstrating readiness with conference staff initiative for a Laity Circuit Team |

Benchmarks toward Success as Ministry Producing Units

Laity Circuit Team Process

- Clergy Circuit Team identifies leadership for Laity Circuit Team
- Laity Circuit Team is established
- Laity Circuit Team is meeting and involved in training components
- Laity Circuit Team studies local community demographics and identifies population change
- Laity Circuit Team engages community with ethnographic methods to learn existing ministry, needs
- Laity Circuit Team develops ideas for new ministries

Point of Collaboration and Embedding Process

- Laity Circuit Team and Clergy Circuit Team consult on ideas and identify strategic collaborations for referral to implement
- Laity Circuit Team and Clergy Circuit Team work with selected congregations to embed the idea and/or refer the idea to the District Strategy Team
- Local Congregations collaboratively develop a plan including leadership and financial support

Clergy Circuit Team Process

- Clergy Circuit Team meets regularly and trains with the Laity Circuit Team on the Congregation as Discipleship System
- Clergy Circuit Team meets regularly and trains together for doing Community Research
- Clergy Circuit Team establishes support and accountability rubric for Off-Stage Leadership
- Clergy Circuit Team develops professional collegiality toward shared leadership and team ministry

Point of Collaboration and Embedding Process

- Clergy Circuit Team collaborates with Laity Circuit Team to present ministry ideas in local churches
- Clergy Circuit team works with congregations to engage in new ministries